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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/11766</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 29 April 2000 (29.04.00)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 60/131,788 30 April 1999 (30.04.99) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant (<i>for all designated States except US</i>): BERKEL INCORPORATED [US/US]; One Berkel Drive, LaPorte, IN 46350 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and</p> <p>(75) Inventors/Applicants (<i>for US only</i>): VERHALEN, Ami [US/US]; 174 Talon Place, Sun Prairie, WI 53590 (US). BIBA, Scott [US/US]; 202 Finch Street, Mazomanie, WI 53560 (US). SULLIVAN, Scott [US/US]; 2844 Commercial Avenue, Madison, WI 53704 (US). LINDEMAN, William [US/US]; 4912 Feenstra Road, Marshall, WI 53559 (US). ROBERTS, Sheldon [US/US]; 1918 Wallinford Circle, Sun Prairie, WI 53590 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agents: HAMILL, Mark, A.; Barnes & Thornburg, 2600 Chase Plaza, 10 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60603 (US) et al.</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>	
<p>(54) Title: SLICING MACHINE, AND METHOD OF USE AND COMPONENTS THEREOF</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>An ergonomically designed food slicing machine including a rotatable blade (800, 2800) for slicing bulk food product, a motor (1400, 3400) operably connected to the rotating blade (800, 2800), and a base (100) portion located below the rotatable blade (800, 2800) which defines a food slice receiving area. The machine may be provided with a sliced food receptacle operably connected to a scale (3900), a visible indicia (3502) correlating to the distance between the gauge plate (2500) and rotatable blade (2800), a blade sharpening assembly (900, 2900), a sled (200) for securing the food product and an operator adjusted optimum stroke setting system for automatic operation of the slicing machine.</p>			